

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of treating pain comprising administering a vanilloid
2 receptor 1 agonist to the intravertebral space in an amount sufficient to ablate neurons.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the vanilloid receptor 1 agonist is
2 administered to a patient suffering from discogenic pain.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the vanilloid receptor 1 agonist is
2 selected from the group consisting of a resiniferatoxin or a capsaicin.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the vanilloid receptor agonist is a
2 capsaicin.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount is from 50 nanograms
2 to 50 micrograms.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount is from about 500
2 nanograms to about 50 micrograms.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein intravertebral administration
2 comprises direct injection into the space between vertebrae.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering a local
2 anesthetic.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the local anesthetic is lidocaine,
2 bupivacaine, tetracaine, or ropivacaine.

1 10. A kit for treating back pain comprising a compartment containing a
2 vanilloid receptor agonist in an amount sufficient to relieve pain and instructional
3 materials describing how to use the kit.

1 11. The kit of claim 10 wherein the vanilloid receptor agonist is a
2 capsaicin.

1 12. The kit of claim 10 further comprising a local anesthetic.

1 13. The kit of claim 12 wherein the local anesthetic is lidocaine or
2 bupivacaine.